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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION :	
FOR LICENSURE OF :	Administrative Action
STEPHANIE B. VARGAS :	
TO PRACTICE NURSING :	CONSENT ORDER
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY :	
_____ :	

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") upon receipt of Stephanie B. Vargas's November 2014 application for licensure as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) by examination, including certification and authorization for a criminal history background check. Upon review of the results of the criminal history background check, the Board ascertained that the applicant was arrested on April 5, 2013, by

members of the New York Police Department (Staten Island), and charged with Criminal Possession Stolen Property, Criminal Possession Controlled Substance, Petit Larceny, and Possession of Hypodermic Instrument. The disposition was not provided. Although Respondent had answered "yes" to the question on her application which asked whether she had been arrested or taken into custody, she answered "no" to the question which asked whether she had ever been convicted or pled guilty to any offense under any circumstance.

After the Board contacted the applicant with the results of the criminal history background check, the applicant acknowledged that she had been taken into custody for possession of marijuana. Although she maintained that charges were not filed against her, she provided contrary documentation indicating that charges were filed, she pled guilty on May 23, 2013, completed "Staten Island Treatment Court," and the charges were ultimately dismissed on March 27, 2014. The applicant maintained that she checked "no" to the question which asked about a guilty plea because she did not want to miss out on the opportunity to get a nursing license.

The applicant's response, including evidence that she completed "Treatment Court" in March 2014 and Staten Island University Hospital's Chemical Dependency Outpatient Program,

indicates that Respondent's November 2014 "no" answer to the question of whether she had engaged in the use of controlled dangerous substances within the last two years is also not accurate.

The Board finds that the applicant misrepresented on the application which constitutes a violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b).

The Board having reviewed this matter, and having considered the nature and timing of the above conduct, and that Respondent was a model patient and had all negative drug screens while in the outpatient program, and the parties desiring to resolve this matter, and the Board having determined that the within Order is sufficiently protective of the public, in lieu of further proceedings, and for other good cause shown;

IT IS on this 30th day of December, 2015

HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED that:

1. Stephanie B. Vargas's application for licensure as a Licensed Practical Nurse by examination shall be granted upon proof of passing the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN), and upon Board review and approval of a completed application and satisfaction of paragraph two of this Order.

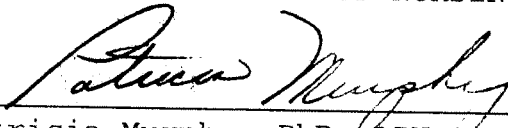
2. A civil penalty in the amount of five hundred dollars

(\$500) is hereby imposed upon the applicant for engaging in misrepresentation on her application. Payment shall be made by certified check, bank cashier check, or money order payable to "State of New Jersey," or by wire transfer, direct deposit, or credit card payment submitted contemporaneously with this signed Order. Any other form of payment will be rejected and will be returned to the party making the payment.

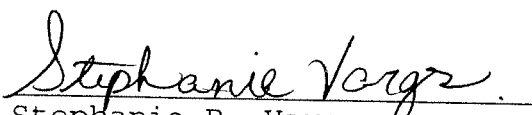
3. The applicant shall obey all the laws of the State of New Jersey, the United States and their political subdivisions, as well as all regulations, rules or laws pertaining to the practice of nursing in any State or jurisdiction in which she practices nursing.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By: _____


Patricia Murphy, PhD, APN
Board President

I have read and understand
the within Consent Order
and agree to be bound by
its terms.


Stephanie B. Vargas